

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101268
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 AID-05 JUSE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 PM-05 /131 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:PWLАНDE
APPROVED BY T:JSNYE
OES/NET - MR. NOSENZO
-----103412 201514Z /45

P 201501Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDO-U.S. NUCLEAR PROBLEMS

1. DEPUTY TO THE UNDER SECRETARY JOSEPH NYE, OES DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOSENZO AND NEA ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LANDE MET WITH MEA SECRETARY VELLODI AND INDIAN
EMBASSY OFFICERS GOKHALE AND RAJAN ON APRIL 14 FOR GENERAL
REVIEW OF CURRENT NUCLEAR PROBLEMS. HIGHLIGHTS OF DIS-
CUSSION FOLLOW.

2. VELLODI REITERATED THE GOI'S POSITION THAT FURTHER DE-
LAYS IN TARAPUR FUEL SHIPMENTS WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS ADVERSE
EFFECT ON INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION AND IMPACT ON THE OVERALL
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WHILE THE GOI WAS AWARE OF THE
INDEPENDENT STATUS OF THE NRC, THE INDIAN PRESS, THE PUB-
LIC AND MANY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE INCREASINGLY COMING
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PAGE 02 STATE 101268

TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE USG WAS STALLING. THIS IN TURN
WAS LEADING TO PRESSURE ON THE GOI TO "DO SOMETHING"
ABOUT THE TARAPUR SITUATION. NYE STATED THAT HE HOPED THE
NRC WOULD REACH A DECISION AT ITS APRIL 20 MEETING AND
EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD APPLY IF THE COMMISSION
WERE TO SPLIT 2-2 OR SEND THE CASE TO THE PRESIDENT WITH-
OUT A RECOMMENDATION.

3. THE DISCUSSION OF TARAPUR LED TO A REVIEW OF INDIAN POLICY ON SAFEGUARDS. VELLODI DID NOT DIRECTLY CHALLENGE NYE'S ASSERTION THAT, IN OUR VIEW, A CTB AND PROGRESS IN SALT II AND III COULD MEET INDIA'S STATED CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. HE DID, HOWEVER, ALLUDE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONCERN WITH DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE A "FOURTH" CONDITION. VELLODI STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SSOD AND STATED THAT A USG POSITION WHICH ACCEPTED THE LINKAGE BETWEEN VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SAFEGUARDS WOULD MAKE IT MUCH EASIER FOR INDIA TO REVIEW ITS SAFEGUARDS POSITION.

4. VELLODI AND NYE REVIEWED EXISTING INDIAN ASSURANCES ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND SAFEGUARDS AND VELLODI NOTED THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THESE POLICIES. INDIA ALSO HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO SELL SPENT FUEL TO THE UNITED STATES. AS FAR AS THE GOI WAS CONCERNED, THE ONLY PROBLEM IN SUCH A BUYBACK WAS USG DELAYS.

5. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY BUT LITTLE NEW WAS COVERED. WE HAVE GIVEN THE UK EMBASSY A READOUT ON THE DISCUSSION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NUCLEAR FUELS, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE101268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0353
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780434/aaaabcop.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f5879aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2900769
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO-U.S. NUCLEAR PROBLEMS
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN, US, (NYE, JOSEPH)
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f5879aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014